



Committee on Public Safety

July 31, 2007 – 7:00 pm – **Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Traffic Commission conduct a survey of the City's intersections, "No Parking Anytime" and "No Parking Here To Corner" areas throughout the City for the purpose of making these areas automatic "Tow Away Zones" when vehicles are in violation; and further, that smaller signage indicating the areas as a "Tow Away Zone" be placed on the aforementioned existing signs so that these signs will serve as a notice to the general public, as well as assist our Police Department and enable them to take immediate action against those in violation. (Also referred to Traffic Commission) (Ref'd 2/26/04, remain in Committee 6/15/06, remain in Committee 10/24/06)

INVITEES: Executive Secretary, Traffic Commission, Scott Downing; Police Chief and Chairman, Traffic Commission, Ron Teachman

2. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the City Council Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhood Issues investigate and evaluate the benefits of the "Reverse 911" Program currently being installed in RI, available to local Cities and Towns from the telephone company(s), which allows for immediate contact during and emergency. (Ref'd 1/13/05, 6/15/06 remain in Committee)

INVITEES: Mark Mahoney, Director, Emergency Management; Richard B. Colon, Public Affairs Manager, Verizon; Mary O'Keeffe, Senior Manager, Government/Community Relations, Com cast; Thomas Smith, Business Continuity Manager, Com cast

3. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the Committee on Labor & Industry meet with the Police Chief and the Chamber of Commerce and the three (3) City Business Associations (North End/South End/Downtown) to discuss and explore the offers by local businesses to provide space to the Community Police Unit for neighborhood police substations to support and encourage neighborhood visibility and support for police presence and encourage a better working relationship between the Police and the Community as well as to provide the neighborhoods with a visible and anchored location at which to find the Community Police Officer. (Ref'd 7/21/05, tabled to next meeting 12/14/06)

INVITEES: Police Chief, Ron Teachman; President of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, Roy Nascimento; North End Business Association President, Ed Pereira; South End Business Association Executive Director, Betty Rivera; Downtown Business Inc. Executive Director, Donna Motta

4. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City's Grant Writer look into any State or Federal Grant money available to the City for the purpose of replacing all street signage throughout the City; and further, that the letters be sent to our State and Federal Delegation requesting any assistance that they may give to the City on obtaining monies for street signage. (Ref'd 2/9/06)

INVITEES: Carl Alves, Grant Writer

5. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, asking that the Committees on Finance, Labor and Industry and Public Safety and Neighborhoods request that a copy of the contract signed by the City with NSTAR be provided to said Committees, as well as how much money was paid to NSTAR for the City to

obtain ownership of all the streetlights throughout the City; further, said contract be provided to the Committees within ten business day; and further, that the Administration also explain how the City will maintain the present lighting system throughout the City and implement the repairs that are needed as soon as possible throughout the City. (Ref'd 2/9/06)

INVITEES: Nelson Ostiguy, Rep. Of the Mayor; Dennis Galvam Rep. of NSTAR; R. Renee Fernandes-Abbott, Treasurer

6. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Gomes, DeMedeiros, Lawrence & Pimental, that the City Council request the Mayor to instruct the New Bedford Police Department to conduct an investigation of all City Cab companies to determine if any are in violation of any City Ordinances; and further, that the New Bedford Police Department present the results of said investigation to the City Council in 90 days for the Council's review and disciplinary action, including revocation of licenses as warranted. (Ref'd 2/23/06, 6/15/06 remain in committee)

INVITEES: Kevin Hegarty, Deputy Chief of Police

7. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City hold a cultural Unity Day Festival in August, in a central City location for the purpose of bringing the entire City together as one, making people aware of the services that the City provides to everyone and allowing residents to enjoy and share ethnic food, music, and fun. (Ref'd 3/9/06, tabled 12/14/06)

INVITEES: Rep. Of the Mayor, Nelson Ostiguy; Cultural Affairs Constituent Services Liaison, Nora Andino; Police Chief, Ron Teachman; Fire Chief, Paul E. Leger; Community Services, Director, Cynthia Wallquist; Neighborhoods United, President, Suzanne Braga

8. Related Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that Mr. Houghton, Director of Grants and Finance for the New Bedford Police Department, be asked by the City Council to provide us with a list of the Grants that have been applied for and obtained over the last two (2) years. (Ref'd 11/21/06)

INVITEES: James R. Houghton, Director of Grants and Finance, New Bedford Police Department

9. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the New Bedford Police Department and the New Bedford Police Union forward to the City Council a report of all accountable equipment within the Department at the present time; and further, that a "Wish List" also be provided to the City Council on equipment needed to bring this Department to its highest potential of providing safety to the Citizens of New Bedford and the Department itself. (Ref'd 12/21/06)

INVITEES: Police Chief, Ron Teachman; Leonard Baillargeon, President, N.B. Police Union

Chairperson suggests "No Further Action" on the following items:

10. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Fortes, on behalf of the area neighbors, the Acushnet Heights Neighborhood Association and SONBITL, (Save Our Neighborhood Before It's Too Late,) requesting that a letter be sent to Mr. Castelo asking that he appear before the Committee on City Property and/or Public Safety and Neighborhood Issues, to discuss how the workers at the project being developed by Castelo Realty on Robeson Street can be more considerate of the residents in the area of the operation since said workers have failed to maintain a "good neighbor" standard at this project, resulting in numerous complaints of machinery operating in the street, dirt and dust flying everywhere, cutting of trees which Mr. Castelo stated would remain when he appeared before the Planning Board Chairman George Smith and the Mayor, etc. (Ref'd 4/22/04)
11. Written Motion, Councillor Morad, requesting that the Police Chief meet with the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhood Issues to discuss the ongoing situation of cars parking within 20 feet of intersections throughout the City. (Ref'd 5/13/04, tabled 5/19/05)

12. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor and the Police Chief provide a detailed breakdown of exactly what the new computers that have been installed into the Police Cruisers are able and available to do for the Police Officers; the Council was originally told by this Administration and the Police Department that these computers would be installed in cruisers to provide Officers with the ability to write reports right from their cruisers thus enabling them to stay in the neighborhoods patrolling and protecting the citizens of the City of New Bedford; and further, regarding the device in the Police Chief's house used to monitor the Police Station, provide information as to who pays for that, and how much did it cost. (Ref'd 11/23/04, rpf 6/15/06)
13. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committees on Finance and Public Safety & Neighborhoods look into installing meters in the City-owned parking lot on Page Street, between Allen and Bedford Streets; Allen Street, north side and Bedford Street, south side from the property line to Page Street, and Page Street, west side, from Tabor Street to Allen Street for the purpose of generating revenue for the City. (Ref'd 6/23/05)
14. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, on behalf of the residents of Rural Street, that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods meets with residents and Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) to discuss the possibility of changing the bus route due to the width and size of Rural Street. (Ref'd 7/21/05, 6/15/06 remain in committee)
15. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting in the interest of Public Safety, that the Department of Public Infrastructure install sidewalks and curbing on the east side of PHILLIPS ROAD, from 1494 Phillips Road in a northerly direction to Pine Hill Park/Playground entrance. (Ref'd 1/26/06)
16. Written Motion, Councillor Koczera, that the City Council Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods invite Deputy Linda Pacheco of the Bristol County Sheriff's Office to do a presentation on the I-Safe, I-Shield Program, that educates and alerts the public to dangers on the internet for our students and young people; and further, that the City Council ask Mayor Scott W. Lang to allow our Education and/or Government Access Channels to tape this presentation and re-broadcast it, so that parents and the public can also be educated on what to look for in regard to dangers on the internet. (Ref'd 2/9/06)
17. Written Motion, Councillors Koczera & Coelho, asking that the City Council request the Department of Inspectional Services to do a thorough inspection at 132 Holly Street, a multi-family unit that has been the source of neighborhood problems for years, to inspect for various health-related violations; and further, that the Council send a letter to the out-of-town, suburban property owner, Mary Jane Kelley of 26 Jerome Street in Berkley, Massachusetts, demanding that she bring this Holly Street property into compliance and make it a "good" abutter to its neighbors. (Ref'd 2/23/06, tabled 6/15/06)
18. Written Motion, Councillor Koczera, requesting that our Legislative Delegation be contacted to file a Bill on behalf of the City Council, creating a mandatory penalty for any prostitute or "John" operating within a designated School Zone. (Ref'd 5/23/06, tabled 10/24/06, tabled 12/14/06)
19. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Koczera, requesting that the City Council's Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet to discuss the five cleanup options for the vacant Aerovox site in hopes of finding the safest remediation plan for this toxic PCB location amid a concern by this petitioner and also shared by others that the EPA might be favoring the cheapest cleanup option ahead of the option that makes the most sense for the public safety concerns and possible re-use of the property. (Note: Invited to meeting should be David Dickerson, Project Manager, EPA; Stacey Greendlinger, EPA Community Involvement; EPA Officials involved in said project, Congressman Barney Frank, Local Legislative Delegation and Jim Simmons, Hands Across the River. (Ref'd 6/22/06)
20. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Koczera and Coelho, asking that the City Council Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with representatives of the Mayan Community, along with

representatives from the Police Department and concerned residents, to discuss and try to find a solution to the violence that seems to be directed at this group of ethnic people; and further, that a method of improving the communication lines between all parties also be discussed. (Ref'd 9/28/06, 12/14/06 - hear again in 3 months)